

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:14-cv-01242-RCL**

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. v. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Assigned to: Judge Royce C. Lamberth  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 07/21/2014  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.**

represented by **Michael Bekesha**  
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.  
425 Third Street, SW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 646-5172  
Fax: (202) 646-5199  
Email: [mbekesha@judicialwatch.org](mailto:mbekesha@judicialwatch.org)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Ramona Raula Cotca**  
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.  
425 Third Street, SW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 646-5172  
Fax: (202) 646-5199  
Email: [rcotca@judicialwatch.org](mailto:rcotca@judicialwatch.org)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**James F. Peterson**  
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.  
425 Third Street, SW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 646-5172  
Fax: (202) 646-5199  
Email: [jpeterson@judicialwatch.org](mailto:jpeterson@judicialwatch.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Paul J. Orfaneades**  
JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.  
425 Third Street, SW  
Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 646-5172  
Fax: (202) 646-5199  
Email: [porfaneades@judicialwatch.org](mailto:porfaneades@judicialwatch.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Robert J. Prince**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
P.O. Box 883, Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044

(202) 305-3654  
 Fax: (202) 616-8460  
 Email: [robert.prince@usdoj.gov](mailto:robert.prince@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Jennie Leah Kneedler**  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
 P.O. Box 883  
 Washington, DC 20530  
 (202) 305-8662  
 Fax: (202) 616-8470  
 Email: [jennie.l.kneedler@usdoj.gov](mailto:jennie.l.kneedler@usdoj.gov)  
**TERMINATED: 05/05/2016**

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
07/21/2014	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-3784779) filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>2</u> Summons State Dept., # <u>3</u> Summons U.S. Attorney, # <u>4</u> Summons U.S. Attorney General)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 07/21/2014)
07/21/2014	<u>2</u>	LCvR 7.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 07/21/2014)
07/21/2014		Case Assigned to Judge Royce C. Lamberth. (kb) (Entered: 07/22/2014)
07/22/2014	<u>3</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Consent Form, # <u>2</u> Notice of Consent)(kb) (Entered: 07/22/2014)
08/08/2014	<u>4</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 7/28/2014. ( Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 8/27/2014.), RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 8/06/2014., RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 7/28/2014 (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration of C. Rotaru)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 08/08/2014)
08/27/2014	<u>5</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Robert J. Prince on behalf of DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Prince, Robert) (Entered: 08/27/2014)
08/27/2014	<u>6</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> FOIA Request Letter)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 08/27/2014)
08/28/2014	<u>7</u>	ORDER requiring defendant to file dispositive motions with supporting materials within 30 days of this date, or such further date as the court may set upon proper motion. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on August 28, 2014. (lcrc11) (Entered: 08/28/2014)
09/12/2014	<u>8</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Scheduling Order by DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 09/12/2014)
09/15/2014	<u>9</u>	ORDER Granting <u>8</u> Motion to Vacate Deadline for Defendant to File Dispositive Motion and for Scheduling Order. (See Image for Details) Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 9/12/14. (mpt, ) (Entered: 09/15/2014)
09/15/2014		Set/Reset Deadlines: Responsive Documents due by 11/12/2014; Vaughn Index due by 12/5/2014; Objections to withholdings described in the draft Vaughn Index; Joint Status Report due by 1/2/2015 (mpt, ) (Entered: 09/15/2014)
12/31/2014	<u>10</u>	STATUS REPORT (JOINT) by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Prince, Robert) (Entered: 12/31/2014)

02/02/2015	<u>11</u>	STATUS REPORT ( <i>JOINT</i> ) by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Prince, Robert) (Entered: 02/02/2015)
03/16/2015	<u>12</u>	Emergency MOTION for Hearing ( <i>Status Conference</i> ) by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 2, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 3, # <u>4</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 03/16/2015)
03/16/2015	<u>13</u>	Emergency MOTION Shorten Response Time to Motion for Status Conference re <u>12</u> Emergency MOTION for Hearing ( <i>Status Conference</i> ) by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 2, # <u>3</u> Exhibit 3, # <u>4</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 03/16/2015)
03/20/2015	<u>14</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>12</u> Emergency MOTION for Hearing ( <i>Status Conference</i> ) filed by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Exhibit 1)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 03/20/2015)
03/23/2015	<u>15</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>12</u> Emergency MOTION for Hearing ( <i>Status Conference</i> ) filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 03/23/2015)
05/01/2015	<u>16</u>	STATUS REPORT ( <i>JOINT</i> ) by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Prince, Robert) (Entered: 05/01/2015)
06/30/2015	<u>17</u>	NOTICE REGARDING BRIEFING SCHEULE by DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Prince, Robert) (Entered: 06/30/2015)
07/02/2015	<u>18</u>	ORDER; setting briefing schedule: Summary Judgment motions due by 7/7/2015; Response to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 8/14/2015; Reply to Motion for Summary Judgment due by 9/11/2015; Plaintiffs' Reply due by 9/25/2015, Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 7/1/2015. (hs) (Entered: 07/02/2015)
07/07/2015	<u>19</u>	MOTION for Summary Judgment by DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Memorandum in Support, # <u>2</u> Declaration of John F. Hackett, # <u>3</u> Statement of Facts, # <u>4</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 07/07/2015)
08/10/2015	<u>20</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to File Response/Reply as to <u>19</u> MOTION for Summary Judgment by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 08/10/2015)
08/12/2015	<u>21</u>	ORDER; granting <u>20</u> Motion for Extension of Time to File Response/Reply, Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 8/11/2015. (hs) (Entered: 08/12/2015)
08/21/2015	<u>22</u>	MOTION for Discovery <i>Pursuant to Rule 56(d)</i> by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration Declaration in Support of 56(d) Motion, # <u>2</u> Exhibit, # <u>3</u> Exhibit, # <u>4</u> Exhibit, # <u>5</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 08/21/2015)
09/02/2015	<u>23</u>	NOTICE of <i>Filing Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 09/02/2015)
09/04/2015	<u>24</u>	NOTICE of <i>Order Entered in Misc. No. 15-1188</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Copy of Order)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 09/04/2015)
09/04/2015	<u>25</u>	MOTION to Stay Pending Resolution of Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 09/04/2015)
09/18/2015	<u>26</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Jennie Leah Kneedler on behalf of U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Kneedler, Jennie) (Entered: 09/18/2015)
09/18/2015	<u>27</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>22</u> MOTION for Discovery <i>Pursuant to Rule 56(d)</i> filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit Exhibits 1-3, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Kneedler, Jennie) (Entered: 09/18/2015)
09/21/2015	<u>28</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>25</u> MOTION to Stay Pending Resolution of Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 09/21/2015)

10/01/2015	<u>29</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>25</u> MOTION to Stay <i>Pending Resolution of Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge</i> filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Prince, Robert) (Entered: 10/01/2015)
10/02/2015	<u>30</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>22</u> MOTION for Discovery <i>Pursuant to Rule 56(d)</i> filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Affidavit)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 10/02/2015)
10/02/2015	<u>31</u>	NOTICE <i>OF PLAINTIFF'S CORRECTED FILING</i> by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. re <u>30</u> Reply to opposition to Motion (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 4)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 10/02/2015)
10/14/2015	<u>32</u>	MOTION for Leave to File <i>Surreply</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order, # <u>2</u> Proposed Surreply, # <u>3</u> Declaration in Support of Proposed Surreply)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 10/14/2015)
10/19/2015	<u>33</u>	NOTICE <i>Regarding Denial of State Department's Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge</i> by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. re <u>25</u> MOTION to Stay <i>Pending Resolution of Motion for Designation of Coordinating Judge</i> (Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 10/19/2015)
10/27/2015	<u>34</u>	RESPONSE re <u>32</u> MOTION for Leave to File <i>Surreply</i> filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 10/27/2015)
01/05/2016	<u>35</u>	ORDER; granting <u>32</u> Motion for Leave to File Surreply, Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 12/31/2015. (hs) (Entered: 01/05/2016)
01/05/2016	<u>36</u>	SURREPLY to re <u>22</u> MOTION for Discovery <i>Pursuant to Rule 56(d)</i> filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (zrdj) (Entered: 01/05/2016)
01/28/2016	<u>37</u>	ORDER denying <u>25</u> Motion to Stay as moot. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on January 28, 2016. (lcrc12) (Entered: 01/28/2016)
02/02/2016	<u>38</u>	ORDER denying Motion for Hearing <u>12</u> ; denying Motion to shorten Defendant's time to file <u>13</u> . Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on January 29, 2016. (lcrc12) (Entered: 02/02/2016)
03/29/2016	<u>39</u>	MEMORANDUM AND ORDER; Denying <u>19</u> Motion for Summary Judgment and Granting <u>22</u> Motion for limited discovery, Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 3/29/2016. (hs) (Entered: 03/29/2016)
05/05/2016	<u>40</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Michael Bekesha on behalf of JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Bekesha, Michael) (Entered: 05/05/2016)
05/05/2016	<u>41</u>	NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. Attorney Jennie Leah Kneedler terminated. (Kneedler, Jennie) (Entered: 05/05/2016)
05/16/2016	<u>42</u>	NOTICE of Proposed Order <i>for Discovery</i> by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. re <u>39</u> Memorandum & Opinion (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 05/16/2016)
05/26/2016	<u>43</u>	RESPONSE to Plaintiff's <u>42</u> <i>Proposed Discovery Order</i> filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Prince, Robert) Modified on 5/27/2016 (zrdj). (Entered: 05/26/2016)
06/06/2016	<u>44</u>	MOTION for Leave to File <i>a Reply</i> by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A (Judicial Watch's Reply), # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 06/06/2016)
06/10/2016	<u>45</u>	Memorandum in opposition to re <u>44</u> MOTION for Leave to File <i>a Reply</i> filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Prince, Robert) (Entered: 06/10/2016)
06/20/2016	<u>46</u>	REPLY to opposition to motion re <u>44</u> MOTION for Leave to File <i>a Reply</i> filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 06/20/2016)
12/21/2016	<u>47</u>	ORDER granting <u>44</u> Motion for Leave to File. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 12/21/16. (lcrc11, ) (Entered: 12/21/2016)

12/21/2016	<u>48</u>	ORDER directing counsel to meet and confer and present a new proposed order by January 10, 2017.. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 12/21/2016. (lcrc11, ) (Entered: 12/21/2016)
12/21/2016	<u>49</u>	REPLY re <u>42</u> Notice of Proposed Order for Discovery filed by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (zrdj) (Entered: 12/22/2016)
01/10/2017	<u>50</u>	NOTICE of Proposed Order for <i>Revised Discovery Plan</i> by JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. re <u>48</u> Order (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 2, # <u>3</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Cotca, Ramona) (Entered: 01/10/2017)
01/10/2017	<u>51</u>	NOTICE of Proposed Order <i>Regarding Further Proceedings</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 01/10/2017)
10/04/2018	<u>52</u>	ORDER directing parties to appear for a Status Conference set for 10/12/2018 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 15 before Judge Royce C. Lamberth. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 10/3/18. (lsj) (Entered: 10/04/2018)
10/12/2018		Minute Entry: Status Conference held on 10/12/2018 before Judge Royce C. Lamberth. (Court Reporter Tim Miller) (tb) (Entered: 10/12/2018)
10/16/2018	<u>53</u>	<p>TRANSCRIPT OF STATUS HEARING before Judge Royce C. Lamberth held on 10-12-18; Page Numbers: 1-42; Date of Issuance: 10-16-18; Court Reporter: Timothy R. Miller, Telephone number (202) 354-3111. Transcripts may be ordered by submitting the <a href="#">Transcript Order Form</a></p> <p>For the first 90 days after this filing date, the transcript may be viewed at the courthouse at a public terminal or purchased from the court reporter referenced above. After 90 days, the transcript may be accessed via PACER. Other transcript formats, (multi-page, condensed, CD or ASCII) may be purchased from the court reporter.</p> <p><b>NOTICE RE REDACTION OF TRANSCRIPTS:</b> The parties have twenty-one days to file with the court and the court reporter any request to redact personal identifiers from this transcript. If no such requests are filed, the transcript will be made available to the public via PACER without redaction after 90 days. The policy, which includes the five personal identifiers specifically covered, is located on our website at <a href="http://www.dcd.uscourts.gov">www.dcd.uscourts.gov</a>.</p> <p>Redaction Request due 11/6/2018. Redacted Transcript Deadline set for 11/16/2018. Release of Transcript Restriction set for 1/14/2019.(Miller, Timothy) (Entered: 10/16/2018)</p>
12/06/2018	<u>54</u>	MEMORANDUM OPINION. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 12/06/2018. (lcrc13) (Entered: 12/06/2018)
12/06/2018	<u>55</u>	ORDER directing the parties to meet and confer regarding discovery and to submit a proposed plan and schedule. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 12/06/2018. (lcrc13) (Entered: 12/06/2018)
12/06/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Proposed Discovery Plan due by 12/17/2018. (lsj) (Entered: 12/06/2018)
12/10/2018	<u>56</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by James F. Peterson on behalf of JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Peterson, James) (Entered: 12/10/2018)
12/10/2018	<u>57</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Paul J. Orfanedes on behalf of JUDICIAL WATCH, INC. (Orfanedes, Paul) (Entered: 12/10/2018)
12/12/2018	<u>58</u>	Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>Wednesday, December 19 for the parties to submit jointly if possible, separately if necessary a proposed plan and schedule for discovery</i> by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Prince, Robert) (Entered: 12/12/2018)
12/12/2018	<u>59</u>	ERRATA by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE <u>58</u> Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>Wednesday, December 19 for the parties to submit jointly if possible, separately if necessary a proposed plan and schedule for discovery</i> filed by U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Prince, Robert) (Entered: 12/12/2018)

12/13/2018	<u>60</u>	ORDER granting <u>58</u> Motion for Extension of Time. The parties shall submit a proposed plan and schedule for discovery by 12/19/2018. Signed by Judge Royce C. Lamberth on 12/14/2018. (lcrcl3) (Entered: 12/13/2018)
12/17/2018		Set/Reset Deadlines: Proposed Plan and Schedule for Discovery due by 12/19/2018. (lsj) (Entered: 12/17/2018)